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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/803,677	03/18/2004	Lee Thompson	03975-P0003A	7317

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EXAMINER

COLAN, GIOVANNA B

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2162

DATE MAILED: 11/09/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/803,677	Applicant(s) THOMPSON ET AL.	
	Examiner Giovanna Colan	Art Unit 2162	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 18 March 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-27 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 19-22, 26 and 27 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-18 and 23-25 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 18 March 2004 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. This action is issued in response to applicant filed application on 03/18/2004.
2. Claims 1 – 18, and 23 – 25 are pending.
3. Claims 19 – 22, and 26 – 27 are withdrawn.
4. Applicant's election without traverse of Group I, claims 1 – 18, and 28 – 25 in the reply filed on 10/02/2006 is acknowledged.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

5. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.
6. Claims 1 – 18, and 23 – 25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

The term “or” included in phrase “the search module... to correlated numerical/tabular data, **or** the search module ...” in claims 1, 10, 15, 23, 24, and 25, is alternate language which renders the claim indefinite. Examiner is unable to determine which of the search modules the claims disclose, and if they are being claimed as usable together or separately. Examiner is unable to determine what the invention entails because the term is not clearly defined in the specification.

Examiner asserts that all claims should be checked for clarification.

Appropriate action is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

7. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

8. Claims 1, and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Snyder et al. (Snyder hereinafter) (US Patent No. 6,038,561, issued: March 14, 2000).

Regarding Claims 1, and 10, Snyder discloses an apparatus for generating a search report of combined data, the apparatus comprising:

a processor (Fig. 1A, item 30' and 30, Col. 10, lines 55 – 58, Snyder);

a formatter executing on the processor for formatting the combined data into text data in a first format (Col. 19, lines 14 – 18, Snyder), and into numerical/tabular data in a second format (Col. 11, lines 50 – 52, Table 2, Snyder) and storing each in storage (Col. 19, lines 15 – 29, Snyder);

a search module executing on the processor for searching the text data (Col. 25, lines 60 – 64, Snyder) and mapping the located text data to correlated numerical/tabular data (Col. 14, lines 10 – 13, Snyder), or the search module searching the

numerical/tabular data (Col. 27, lines 22 – 25, Snyder) and mapping the located numerical/tabular data to correlated text data (Col. 14, lines 10 – 13, Snyder); and a report module executing on the processor for integrating the located and correlated text and numerical/tabular data into a report (Col. 21, lines 37 – 41, Snyder).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

9. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

10. This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

11. **Claims 2 – 9, 11 – 18, and 23 – 25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Snyder et al. (Snyder hereinafter) (US Patent No.**

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**6,038,561, issued: March 14, 2000) in view of August et al. (August hereinafter)
(US Patent No. 6,647,383, filed: September 1, 2000).**

Regarding Claim 2, Snyder discloses all the limitations as disclosed above including controlled application data accessible by the processor (Col. 25, lines 60 – 64, word and phrase entered; Snyder) and data that corresponds to the combined data in storage (Col. 14, lines 10 – 13, Snyder). However, Snyder does not expressly disclose vocabulary and a standard vocabulary. On the other hand, August discloses vocabulary data, and providing a portion of standard vocabulary (Col. 16, lines 52 – 60, August). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate the August's teachings to the system Snyder. Skilled artisan would have been motivated to do so, as suggested by August (Col. 9, 11, and 16, lines 32 – 36, 5 – 18, and 56 – 60; respectively, August); to identify sources that are appropriate for age, language skills, and scope of the search; to allow the user to select options to, for example, include pronunciation, definitions, specialized dictionaries, and alternate spelling, and alternate language; and to provide access to vocabulary of each specialty. In addition, both of the references (Snyder and August) teach features that are directed to analogous art and they are directed to the same field of endeavor, such as, databases management systems, and searching information. This close relation between both of the references highly suggests an expectation of success.

Regarding Claim 3, the combination of Snyder in view of August discloses an apparatus wherein at least one of the text data and the numeric/tabular data uses multiple standard vocabularies (Col. 16, lines 52 – 60; vocabulary of each specialty, August).

Regarding Claim 4, the combination of Snyder in view of August discloses an apparatus wherein the report can integrate the controlled vocabulary application data when at least one of the text data and the numeric/tabular data is restricted to using a single standard vocabulary (Col. 21, lines 37 – 41, Snyder; and Col. 16, and 21, lines 52 – 55, and 10 – 13, primary language; respectively, August).

Regarding Claim 5, the combination of Snyder in view of August discloses an apparatus wherein the search module accesses the text data (Col. 25, lines 60 – 64, Snyder) and numerical/tabular data according to the controlled vocabulary application data (Col. 27, lines 22 – 25, Snyder).

Regarding Claim 6, the combination of Snyder in view of August discloses an apparatus wherein the controlled vocabulary application data has a text data portion (Col. 19, lines 14 – 18, Snyder; and Col. 8, lines 66 – 67, August) and a numerical/tabular data portion (Col. 11, lines 50 – 52; Table 2, Snyder; and Col. 15, lines 52 – 54, August).

Regarding Claim 7, the combination of Snyder in view of August discloses an apparatus wherein the controlled vocabulary application data can be browsed by a user to refine the searching performed by the search module (Col. 4, lines 20 – 28; Snyder; and Col. 23, lines 24 – 28, August).

Regarding Claim 8, the combination of Snyder in view of August discloses an apparatus wherein the controlled vocabulary application data is updated by additions to the combined data (Col. 10, lines 7, 11 – 15, and 60 – 63; August).

Regarding Claim 9, the combination of Snyder in view of August discloses an apparatus further comprising an editor executing on the processor for providing a user with remote editing capabilities for text data and numerical/tabular data in the report (Col. 10, lines 7, 11 – 15, and 60 – 63; August).

Regarding Claim 11, the combination of Snyder in view of August discloses a method further comprising limiting the text and numerical/tabular data available to a search by controlled vocabulary application data having a text data portion (Col. 25, lines 60 – 64, Snyder) and a numerical/tabular data portion (Col. 27, lines 22 – 25, Snyder).

Regarding Claim 12, the combination of Snyder in view of August discloses a method of claim further comprising normalizing the controlled vocabulary application data to reduce the amount of a standard vocabulary that needs to be utilized when searching using the controlled vocabulary application data (Col. 15, lines 49 – 57, Snyder).

Regarding Claim 13, the combination of Snyder in view of August discloses a method further comprising updating the controlled vocabulary application data with each addition to the text and numerical/tabular data (Col. 10, lines 7, 11 – 15, and 60 – 63; August).

Regarding Claim 14, the combination of Snyder in view of August discloses a method further comprising browsing the controlled vocabulary application data to control the scope of the search (Col. 4, lines 20 – 28; Snyder; and Col. 23, lines 24 – 28, August).

Regarding Claim 15, the combination of Snyder in view of August discloses an apparatus for generating a search report of combined data, the apparatus comprising:

a processor (Fig. 1A, item 30' and 30, Col. 10, lines 55 – 58, Snyder);
storage accessible by the processor (Fig. 1A, items 35, and 35', Col. 10, lines 61 – 63, Snyder), the storage having stored thereon text data (Col. 19, lines 14 – 18, Snyder) and numerical/tabular data (Col. 11, lines 50 – 52, Table 2, Snyder);

controlled vocabulary application data accessible by the processor (Col. 16, lines 52 – 60, August), the controlled vocabulary application data having a text data portion (Col. 19, lines 14 – 18, Snyder; and Col. 8, lines 66 – 67, August) and a numerical/tabular data portion (Col. 11, lines 50 – 52, Table 2, Snyder; and Col. 15, lines 52 – 54, August);

a search module executing on the processor for searching the text data (Col. 25, lines 60 – 64, Snyder) using the text data controlled vocabulary application data portion (Col. 16, lines 52 – 60, August) and mapping the search to located and correlated numerical/tabular data (Col. 14, lines 10 – 13, Snyder), or the search module searching the numerical/tabular data (Col. 27, lines 22 – 25, Snyder) using the numerical/tabular data controlled vocabulary application data portion (Col. 16, lines 52 – 60, August) and mapping the search to located and correlated text data (Col. 14, lines 10 – 13, Snyder); and

a report module executing on the processor for translating and integrating the located and correlated text and numerical/tabular data into a report (Col. 21, lines 37 – 41, Snyder).

Regarding Claim 16, the combination of Snyder in view of August discloses an apparatus wherein the controlled vocabulary application data can be browsed and selected by a user to refine the scope of the searching performed by the search module (Col. 4, lines 20 – 28; Snyder; and Col. 23, lines 24 – 28, August).

Regarding Claim 17, the combination of Snyder in view of August discloses an apparatus wherein the controlled vocabulary application data is updated by additions to the combined data (Col. 10, lines 7, 11 – 15, and 60 – 63; August).

Regarding Claim, 18 the combination of Snyder in view of August discloses an apparatus further including an expert system executing on the processor for controlling the updating of the controlled vocabulary application data (Col. 10, lines 7, 11 – 15, and 60 – 63; August).

Regarding Claim 23, the combination of Snyder in view of August discloses a system for generating a search report of combined data, the system comprising:

a processor (Fig. 1A, item 30' and 30, Col. 10, lines 55 – 58, Snyder);

storage accessible by the processor (Fig. 1A, items 35, and 35', Col. 10, lines 61 – 63, Snyder), the storage having stored thereon text data (Col. 19, lines 14 – 18, Snyder) and numerical/tabular data (Col. 11, lines 50 – 52, Table 2, Snyder);

software executing on the processor for generating controlled vocabulary application data having a text data portion (Col. 19, lines 14 – 18, Snyder) and a numerical/tabular data portion (Col. 11, lines 50 – 52, Table 2, Snyder);

software executing on the processor for searching the text data (Col. 25, lines 60 – 64, Snyder) using the text data controlled vocabulary application data portion (Col. 16, lines 52 – 60, August) and mapping the search to located and correlated numerical/tabular data (Col. 14, lines 10 – 13, Snyder), or the search module searching

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the numerical/tabular data using the numerical/tabular data controlled vocabulary application data portion (Col. 27, lines 22 – 25, Snyder) and mapping the search to located and correlated text data (Col. 14, lines 10 – 13, Snyder); and

software executing on the processor for translating and integrating the located and correlated text and numerical/tabular data into a report (Col. 21, lines 37 – 41, Snyder).

Regarding Claim 24, the combination of Snyder in view of August discloses a system for generating a search report of combined data, the apparatus comprising:

a processor (Fig. 1A, item 30' and 30, Col. 10, lines 55 – 58, Snyder);

storage accessible by the processor (Fig. 1A, items 35, and 35', Col. 10, lines 61 – 63, Snyder), the storage having stored thereon combined data (Col. 11, and 19, lines 50 – 52, and 14 – 18; respectively, Snyder);

software executing on the processor for formatting the combined data into text data in a first format (Col. 19, lines 14 – 18, Snyder) and into numerical/tabular data in a second format (Col. 11, lines 50 – 52, Table 2, Snyder) and storing each in storage (Col. 19, lines 15 – 29, Snyder);

software executing on the processor for searching the text data (Col. 25, lines 60 – 64, Snyder) and mapping the located text data to correlated numerical/tabular data (Col. 14, lines 10 – 13, Snyder), or the search module searching the numerical/tabular data (Col. 27, lines 22 – 25, Snyder) and mapping the located numerical/tabular data to correlated text data (Col. 14, lines 10 – 13, Snyder); and

software executing on the processor for integrating the located and correlated text and numerical/tabular data into a report (Col. 21, lines 37 – 41, Snyder).

Regarding Claim 25, the combination of Snyder in view of August discloses an apparatus for generating a search report of combined data, the apparatus comprising:

a processor (Fig. 1A, item 30' and 30, Col. 10, lines 55 – 58, Snyder);

storage accessible by the processor (Fig. 1A, items 35, and 35', Col. 10, lines 61 – 63, Snyder), the storage having stored thereon combined data (Col. 11, and 19, lines 50 – 52, and 14 – 18; respectively, Snyder);

a formatter coupled to the processor for formatting the combined data into text data in a first format (Col. 19, lines 14 – 18, Snyder) and into numerical/tabular data in a second format (Col. 11, lines 50 – 52, Table 2, Snyder) and storing each in storage (Col. 19, lines 15 – 29, Snyder);

controlled vocabulary application data accessible by the processor, the controlled vocabulary application data having a text data portion (Col. 19, lines 14 – 18, Snyder) and a numerical/tabular data portion (Col. 11, lines 50 – 52, Table 2, Snyder);

a search module executing on the processor, the controlled vocabulary application data limiting the search module search of the text data (Col. 4, lines 20 – 28; Snyder; and Col. 23, lines 24 – 28, August), the search module mapping the located text data to correlated numerical/tabular data (Col. 14, lines 10 – 13, Snyder), or the controlled vocabulary application data limiting the search module searching the numerical/tabular data (Col. 4, lines 20 – 28; Snyder; and Col. 23, lines 24 – 28,

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August), the search module mapping the located numerical/tabular data to correlated text data (Col. 14, lines 10 – 13, Snyder); and

a report module executing on the processor, the report module translating and integrating the located and correlated text and numerical/tabular data into a report (Col. 21, lines 37 – 41, Snyder).

Prior Art Made Of Record

1. Snyder et al. (US Patent No. 6,038,561, issued: March 14, 2000).
2. August et al. (US Patent No. 6,647,383, filed: September 1, 2000).
3. Saffer et al. (US Patent No. 6,990,238 B1).
4. Grefenstette et al. (US Patent No. 6,778,979 B2).

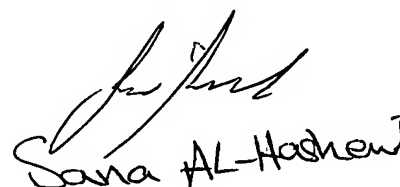
Points Of Contact

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Giovanna Colan whose telephone number is (571) 272-2752. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30 am - 5:00 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Breene can be reached on (571) 272-4107. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Giovanna Colan
Examiner
Art Unit 2162
November 7, 2006


Sana AL-Hachew